

HONORING THE WHITTINGTON CENTER

HON. BILL RICHARDSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 10, 1995

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, this country's premier shooting and hunting center is located in northern New Mexico in my congressional district. As the proud Representative of the Whittington Center, I was honored to have had a tour of this outstanding facility during the August congressional recess.

As my colleagues debate and consider gun control measures, I would strongly suggest they too visit the Whittington Center and see first hand how responsible gun owners are training, shooting, and exercising their second amendment right.

Founded by the National Rifle Association in 1973, the Whittington Center is located in Raton, a wonderful community which has long been proud of its NRA neighbor. Whittington Center executive director Mike Ballew guided me through the Whittington complex. This facility, located on 52 square miles, is visited by some 70,000 people each year. It offers not just world class ranges for a variety of shooting, but hunting opportunities, training and camping sites. This is a first class center that all law-abiding shooters can be proud of.

While the Whittington Center is well known among the shooting public and hosts many competitive local, State, regional, and national matches, it does not receive much publicity. I agree with a recent commentary offered by Raton city commissioner Chip Ciammaichella that this center and the shooting sport deserves greater coverage so that more of our citizens have a better understanding of the NRA, the Whittington Center, and those who visit it.

I urge my colleagues to read Commissioner Ciammaichella's comments which follow as well as review literature I received from the Whittington Center during my August visit.

[From the Raton Range, Sept. 12, 1995]

SHOOTING SPORTS DESERVE MORE COVERAGE
(By Chips Ciammaichella)

Hearty congratulations to my good friend Ed Hager. He recently competed in the National Rifle Matches at Camp Perry, Ohio, and did very well. The "National Matches," as shooters have called them for years, is the Super Bowl of competitive high-powered rifle target shooting, drawing thousands of America's best civilian and military marksmen.

Ed competed in the "President's" match, as well as the National Trophy Match. Both matches had more than 1,400 top-notch participants, yet Ed was able to win the bronze medal in the Trophy Match, with only a mental lapse denying him first place. In the President's Match, Ed placed in the "President's 100" for the second straight year. Well done, buddy.

It's shame that Ed's achievements in such national competitions receive little or no local news' coverage. I realize that much of our local news comes from wire services and press releases, and today's high-tech communications make a wealth of information available from these sources. With so much information available at a news organizations' fingertips, much less time is spent "digging" for news. Since many people don't wish to "toot their own horn" with a press release, their achievements go un-noticed by the media. I guess, there's no substitute for good, old-fashioned legwork.

I realize that the shooting sports aren't football, but in Raton, I think that they should receive more coverage than at present. After all, we're the home of the NRA Whittington Center, easily the finest outdoor shooting facility in the world. Thousands of people shoot here every year, many of them in competition.

Whittington Center hosts many local, state, regional and national matches, and the number of large regional and national matches held here is increasing every year. With the future of Camp Perry always under attack, chances are good that the National Matches themselves will be held in Raton sometime in the not-too-distant future.

Raton benefits from the success of Whittington Center and the people who use the facility help our local economy. They stay in our motels, eat at our restaurants, fill-up at our gas stations and buy goods and services from our local merchants. Some even decide to move here. A little more news coverage of their exploits at Whittington would make them feel more at home and enhance their perception of Raton.

The combination of Whittington Center here in Raton, the respected Trinidad State Junior College gunsmithing school over the hill, New Mexico's reasonable gun laws and the natural beauty of our area make Raton an attractive prospective home to industry related to the shooting sports and firearms. It's a natural fit and a few firearms-related companies are already seriously eyeing Raton. I'm confident that more will follow, creating jobs for local people and helping to strengthen our local economy.

To succeed in drawing these companies to Raton, we need to have a better coordinated effort. While the Raton Chamber and Economic Development Council, Inc. has already targeted firearms-related industry, both government and the media can help out. Local government can best help by working to provide the infrastructure and quality of life that will make our community even more attractive to prospective businesses and individuals. The media can help out by paying more attention to the shooting sports and the people who compete in them.

I don't want to say that our local media has ignored shooting. Jim Roper and KRTN did quite a bit to make Whittington Center a reality, and Curtis Williams of The Range has just discovered the joys of practical pistol shooting. I'd just like to see a little more coverage of the matches held at Whittington and the people who compete in them. I'd also like to see coverage of some of our local shooters who compete at the state, regional or national levels.

NRA Whittington Center and the Raton Practical Shooting Club (Rat-Pack), will be hosting the USPSA/IPSC Area II practical shooting championships next spring. As a member of the Rat-Pack, albeit not one of the better shooters, I would like to compete. Between now and then I'm going to practice my little heart out, hoping to have a respectable showing in the match. Everyone, including Bill Richardson, knows that I crave attention. If I screw up and actually win the match (not blood likely), I'd sure like to hear my name on the radio and see my picture in the newspaper.

Better yet, maybe I'll just brag that I'm gonna win the thing, hands down, kind of like Cassius Clay used to do. Then, when I lose badly, The Range will definitely run the story.

NRA WHITTINGTON CENTER

"THE FUTURE OF SHOOTING"

Founded by NRA members . . . for NRA members

Founded in 1973, the NRA Whittington Center is the largest and most complete shoot-

ing and hunting complex in the world. Located on 52 beautiful square miles of New Mexico countryside, the NRA Whittington Center is truly your Whittington Center, with more than 70,000 visitors each year.

Created for the use of all NRA members and their families, the NRA Whittington Center offers an impressive range of fully-equipped shooting range facilities, camping and recreational areas, and some of the best hunting anywhere.

The NRA Whittington Center is owned, operated and funded by thousands of NRA members who want to preserve our hunting and shooting heritage of firearms ownership, hunting, and the shooting sports.

SHOOTING

"World-class ranges"

To play host for many of the top competitions in the world requires the best facilities . . . and that's exactly what you'll find at the NRA Whittington Center. An incredible variety of ranges are available—including high power, metallic silhouette, skeet, pistol, black powder, hunter sight-in, smallbore, trap and sporting clays.

All range facilities are designed to create the ideal shooting environment with safety as a priority.

HUNTING

"Trophy class"

The game rich NRA Whittington Center offers hunting opportunities for deer, elk, turkey, black bear, and more. Through effective wildlife management, consistently high success rates are achieved for all species at the Center . . . the finest hunting country in the Rockies. Everything you need to create the hunting and recreation adventure of a lifetime is available.

TRAINING

"Safety as a priority"

Firearms training makes up an important part of the activities at the NRA Whittington Center. Nationally-known instructors regularly conduct training in all shooting disciplines. Marksmanship and competition are strongly promoted, with the guiding principle of the safe handling of firearms.

NRA Whittington Center needs you!

You know what the best thing about the NRA Whittington Center is? It truly is Your NRA Whittington Center. The Center relies solely on the tax-deductible contributions of thousands of NRA members. Whether you plan to use this world-class facility or not, why not join with thousands of proud NRA members and support Your NRA Whittington Center today!

NRA Whittington Center, P.O. Box .30-06, Raton, NM 87740.

DR. JOSEPH A. MARASCO, JR., RECEIVES RADIOLOGY'S HIGHEST AWARD

HON. BUD SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 10, 1995

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, on September 12, 1995, Dr. Joseph A. Marasco, Jr., received the American College of Radiology's highest award, their gold medal for his contributions to the field of radiology.

In his moving acceptance speech he said:

On a Spring day in 1910, an apprehensive but excited nine year old immigrant from southern Italy stepped onto Ellis Island with his parents who were seeking the promise of

America. That boy was my father who will be 94 years old in a few more weeks. I'm honored and proud to have him here today.

Dad married another Italian immigrant whose family also sought greater opportunity here. My parents made sacrifices for me. They wanted me to have all the benefits of American citizenship. They were proud of their roots but loved America and all it stands for.

Their story is not unique. Many of you in this audience have similar stories—beginning in the peat bogs of Ireland, the ghettos of Poland and Russia, Greek fishing villages, Philippine rice fields, remote African villages, Welsh coal mines, and many other places. Our forbearers found an opportunity and vitality here which enabled us to serve in the noblest of professions. Furthermore, as radiologists, we have been blessed to experience the queen of medical specialties. Think a moment. Would you be here today without the opportunity which is America. I know that I would not be.

Indeed, only in America could such a dream come true.

Following is a profile written about Dr. Marasco describing him as a "man for all seasons."

JOSEPH MARASCO NAMED ACR GOLD MEDALIST

(By Thomas F. Meaney)

A man for all seasons and the College had more than four a year during Joe Marasco's active involvement with the ACR. Not many have borne the pressures of recurring problems and challenges and have led the organization to rational and successful conclusion of events.

During his time on the Council, problems with the financial health of the College were uncovered. We were making decisions based on imperfect data. While things seemed to work well as a mom and pop operation, the sophistication of newer College activities required a change to a solid business footing. One example was that our production and inventories of teaching materials had grown excessively, placing a hidden burden on our finances. Joe Marasco took a leadership role, working with members of the Board of Chancellors and the issue was quickly clarified. His wisdom was apparent to all and he became the first member of the Council to serve on the Budget and Finance Committee. This pervasive insight into financial matters was rewarded by his election to the Board of Chancellors and to the position of treasurer.

But that was just the spring season and an unusually hot summer followed! He was one of the first to recognize that radiology had been ignoring a vital partner in our specialty—the radiological industry. We were interdependent but only casually speaking about our mutual interests and needs at a time when radiology's advances were exploding. We had to work together on a serious basis to reach our goals. This insight led to the formation of the Industrial Liaison Committee and the needed closer interaction of the profession with industry.

If June was warm, August was sweltering. The College offices were in Chicago and the action was in Washington, DC. While we had a superb branch office in Washington with excellent and effective staff, the division of our staff resources and duplication of our facilities could no longer be economically maintained. The only solution was consolidation of offices in Washington where legislators and regulators lived and worked, often on our business.

Moving our operation was not a trivial matter. Questions arose: where to locate and how to pay for it! Joe Marasco played a central role as chairman of the Site Selec-

tion Committee. His previous efforts in forming the Industrial Liaison Committee now came to center stage in planning for financing of a consolidated headquarters in Reston, Virginia. The sum of \$10 million was an unrealistic goal scoffed at by skeptics on the board. The Radiology 2000 campaign began with the solid support of our members and industry. It was Joe Marasco who arranged a pledge of \$1 million from Eastman Kodak which assured success. An amount of \$8.5 million was raised!

A fifth season then arrived with the resignation of our executive director just prior to our move to Reston. Joe Marasco had just assumed the chairmanship of the board. Through his efforts, calm prevailed and a new executive director, John Curry, was named, with Otha Linton as associate executive director.

Fall and spring sometimes merge in Washington. Looking for cuts in Medicare costs, Congress was again considering RAPs. They were intent on placing the specialties of radiology, anesthesiology and pathology (RAPs) in Part A of Medicare, meaning that we would be a hospital service. His testimony before the House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Health was salutary. Calling for a "level playing field" and vowing to help in working out the problems as a partner with the subcommittee, the issue was defused. But fall is dangerous in the Congress as they reconcile the budget. RAPs could get back in. But, under the watchful eye of the chairman, it did not.

Had enough of the seasons? Just one more, a harsh winter. The relationship between diagnostic radiologists and radiation oncologists was not the best. Some were calling for the complete separation of the American College of Radiology and the Association of Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology (ASTRO). Working closely with the president of ASTRO, Joe Marasco and ASTRO President Jerry Hanks agreed to develop a constructive relationship that has resulted in a strong bond today.

Of course, there are pleasant seasons that often go unnamed. Joe Marasco's work with the ACR's self-evaluation project on skeletal radiology in the emergency radiology group was a satisfying contribution and a teaching success to students of all ages. Following his term as president of the ACR, he was elected to the board of the International Society of Radiology and now serves as treasurer.

Somehow, he managed to do many other things in his home town of Pittsburgh, PA—like participating in an active practice of radiology with a residency program, serving as program director and managing partner of his group. Or, take the Pittsburgh Opera, where he served on the board and became president. Or, when he was vice president of the United Methodist Church Union. And, let's not forget his prowess as an eight handicap golfer.

These incredible seasons could only have been weathered with the support, encouragement and devotion of his lovely wife Carrie and very understanding family, friends and colleagues.

572D ANTIAIRCRAFT ARTILLERY BATTALION

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 10, 1995

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, on October 6, 1995, a proud group of veterans will reunite in my district in Wilkes-Barre, PA. The reunion

will commemorate the 50th anniversary of their service to their country in World War II. I am pleased to welcome the members of the 572d Antiaircraft Association and proud to bring the story of the battalion known as the Helltracks to the attention of my colleagues.

The 572d Antiaircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion, Self-Propelled, was activated on June 10, 1943, at Camp Edwards, MA, on Cape Cod. After 3 months of training, fillers arrived from the New Cumberland Reception Center, making the outfit about 95 percent Pennsylvania men. On June 8, 1944, the 572d departed Camp Edwards for Camp McCain, MS, where they spent 4 weeks. Their next stop was Camp Livingston LA, which they left on August 24, 1944, for their last stop in the United States, Camp Shanks, NY.

On September 29, 1944, the 572d set sail aboard the HMS Chitral, an old East India freighter, with its lower depths jammed with bunks stacked four high. After an 11-day voyage across the Atlantic Ocean, which included a submarine scare, the Chitral docked at Greenock, Scotland.

From Greenock trains brought the men to Poole, Dorset, England. From there they marched to Parkestone, making the Sandscotes School for Girls its Headquarters, with the battalion billeted in homes in the neighborhood.

The 572d made its channel crossing on November 26, 1944, landing in the harbor of LeHavre, where they made camp for 6 days. They received orders to march on December 1, 1944, and march they did, crossing northern France in a single day. After V-E Day, May 8, 1945, the battalion regrouped and convoyed its way to Mannheim, where the half-tracks became patrol wagons as the battalion turned into the Security Police for the metropolitan area.

Because of their mental attitude and state of training the Helltracks fought with fury and determination, making all of us Pennsylvanians proud of their role in our victory in Europe.

Mr. Speaker, the history of the Helltracks as excepted here from the Story of the Helltracks is an inspiring testament to the fighting men and women of World War II. Ninety-five percent of this heroic battalion was from Pennsylvania. Once again, I am pleased to welcome the Helltracks to Wilkes-Barre on the occasion of their 50th anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE NORMAN Y. MINETA

SPEECH OF

HON. ESTEBAN EDWARD TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 1995

Mr. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor NORM MINETA, a great American. In the spring of 1942, Sidney Yamaguchi, a schoolmate of mine, was absent on Monday morning at Soto Street School. The teacher informed us that Sidney was going on a long trip to Utah or Wyoming. I don't recall which State for sure.

After school I walked across the street to the Yamaguchi house to see Sidney and learn more about his move. Too late, the Yamaguchi family was gone. I never saw Sidney again. I later learned from my mother the fate of the Yamaguchi family, they had been